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HPSCI/Reg
OCA 88-1314
25 April 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Thomas Latimer and Thomas Smeeton, HPSCI Staff, on Proposals to Improve Capitol Hill Security.

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1. [] and [] from the Office of Security, [] Intelligence Community Staff, and the undersigned met with Thomas Latimer and Thomas Smeeton from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence staff to discuss a series of Agency recommendations to improve security on Capitol Hill. The meeting was prompted by Latimer who informed John Helgerson of his displeasure at the CIA for generating proposals on Hill security after having previously refused to provide assistance.

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2. I explained to Latimer and Smeeton that the Agency had indeed referred an earlier request by HPSCI to provide security assistance to the IC Staff but that the proposals we had recently generated had been coordinated with the IC people, hence the presence of []. I also informed the staffers how we currently became involved and told them that no action had been taken on our proposals. Moreover, no action would be taken unless the HPSCI agreed. Latimer expressed his concern that he had not been kept informed, but was pleased to hear that no action had been taken on the proposals.

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3. Latimer and Smeeton read the proposals and voiced their concern about two of them. They suggested that we delete the recommendation calling for establishing a security office for the House. Latimer indicated that this proposal was the subject of considerable political argument, and the Agency should avoid becoming embroiled. We agreed. Both Smeeton and Latimer were worried that the proposed operational security survey would prove inadequate. [] and [] argued strongly that this was the heart of the problem on the Hill and that the proposed survey was essential. After further discussion, Latimer and Smeeton withdrew their objections.

4. By the time the meeting ended Latimer and Smeeton supported the Agency initiative, concluding that any help we could provide to the Capitol Police would be beneficial. Latimer did warn again that he was displeased that he had not been kept informed and indicated that he wanted us to keep him advised of progress and problems. We agreed.

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